

MINUTES
TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
6 August 2012

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:05 PM on Monday, 6 August 2012. Those members in attendance were Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Ms. Alice Marie Gravely, and Mr. Ward Bucher. Mr. Ron B. Mitchell and Mr. Robert Amdur were not present. Representing the County was Mr. Martin Sokolich and Ms. Florence Ball.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 4 June and 2 July 2012 TCHPC MEETINGS – The minutes of the 4 June meeting were read. Mrs. Marsha Kacher moved to approve the June minutes as read; the motion was seconded by Ms. Alice Marie Gravely, and was carried.

The minutes of the meeting on 2 July were read, and one small correction was noted. Mrs. Marsha Kacher moved to approve the July minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Ms. Alice Marie Gravely and was carried.

- B. SAMPLE SURVEY MAILING STATUS - Mr. Martin Sokolich announced the he was scheduled to be on vacation next week, and suggested delaying the mailing of the sample survey until September. He also suggested coordinating envelope stuffing with the TCHPC meeting on 10 September. It was agreed that the Commissioners could arrive at 1:30 or 2:00 pm before the meeting to stuff envelopes and that the TCHPC brochure shall be enclosed with the survey letter. In consideration of the Commission's limited budget, the Commissioners voiced concerns about the cost of the mailing. Mr. Sokolich said there are 340 names on the mailing list. Since he will be copying the letters and brochures in the office, the postage will be the main cost which comes to approximately \$150.00 plus the cost of copying.
- C. FY 2012 ANNUAL BUDGET – Mr. Ward Bucher said only \$500.00 was allocated to the Commission when the 2012 budget was finalized by the County Council, and TCHPC was asked to notify the County Manager if the amount becomes insufficient. He said the next substantial budget item would be the future TCHPC social event.
- D. CONTINUING EDUCATION TO SATISFY CLG EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS –Mrs. Marsha Kacher said she and Ms. Alice Marie Gravely, attended the MAHDC design workshop which was held in Easton. She asked how many credits are required for each Commissioner. Mr. Martin Sokolich replied that the education fulfillment is not tabulated in credits per se, and those who attended the seminar have satisfied the minimum requirement for the year.

- E. STATUS UPDATE ON THE MILLERS HOUSE (T-70) – Mr. Ward Bucher reported that there is now a fence around the house and plywood on the windows. He explained that instead of completely boarding up the windows, it is preferable to apply a grille to allow ventilation. He said a price quote of \$5,500.00 was obtained for doing the archaeology; however, there is no money in the budget at this time for that expense. He said the end wall is still in need of stabilization, but the excavation cannot be done until the Section 106 archaeology requirement is completed. He added that the roof still needs repair, and the house is not yet ready for winter.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION OF JULY SITE VISIT – Clays Hope (T-189) was visited on 16 July. Mrs. Marsha Kacher said the Commissioners were invited inside, and found the interior to be very well maintained. Among the notable interior features was an unusual linear paneling at the main stair that was applied without top and bottom rails. Mrs. Kacher said the owner had done in depth research and documentation on the historic background of the house, and shared some of it with the group.

Also inspected was the tobacco barn which dates back to the early 1700's, and is one of several featured on Maryland Public Television's Tobacco Barns in Maryland. Other than some minor cracking in brick joints above the windows on the east facade of the house, it was noted that the property has been well maintained both inside and outside. Recommendations for repairs to the brickwork have been included in the report to the owner. At this time, no mention was made of plans for the August site visit.

- B. TCHPC MEMBERSHIP STATUS – Mr. Ward Bucher said TCHPC is still limping along with two empty Commission seats. Mr. Martin Sokolich said he has not yet heard anything from the County Council regarding appointments for those seats. There are a limited number of architects in the area, most of who already have served on the Commission, and apparently, the list of people who meet the qualifications has dwindled.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. NEAVITT STORE – Mr. Martin Sokolich said he had received an email from someone inquiring about the possibility of nominating the store in Neavitt for the National Historic Trust. He said apparently, the building is in need of repair and the individual who emailed him thought that National Historic Trust recognition might open the door to grant money to preserve the structure.
- B. TOWER PROJECTS – Mrs. Marsha Kacher asked whether decisions have been made regarding wireless communications towers. Mr. Martin Sokolich said the County is working on legislation for concealed towers. Appropriate bulk requirements for these towers are still being considered. He added that the legislation does not address aesthetics or other design issues. Mr. Sokolich said the approval process for the proposed tower in Bozeman is progressing.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 10 September 2012, at 3:00 pm in Conference Room One of the Talbot County Office Building at 215 Bay Street in Easton.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:40 pm.

7 August 2012
Amended 11 Sept 2012